PROBE RESEARCH
MANITOBA SEPTEMBER 2015 OMNIBUS

AGE AND GROWING OLDER

MANITOBA
BUREAU OF STATISTICS

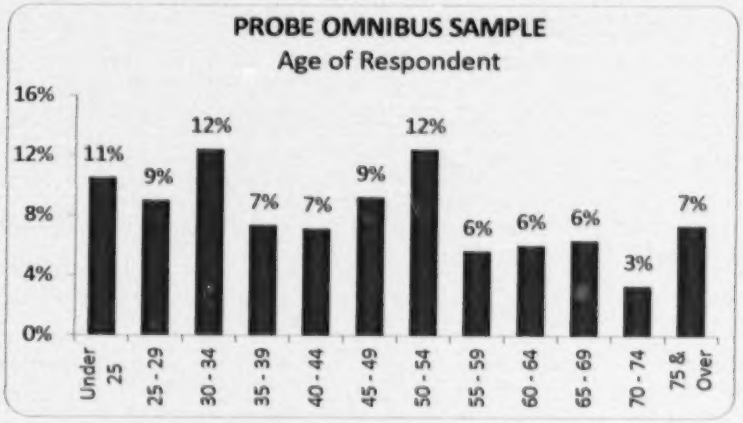
RIGHT ANSWERS

RIGHT NOW

December 18, 2015

Probe Research: Manitoba September 2015 Omnibus Survey

The *Probe Research province-wide Omnibus survey* is conducted via telephone interviews among a random and representative sampling of 1,000 adults residing in Manitoba. The September 2015 Omnibus was conducted between September 14th and September 23rd. Modified random digit dialing covering both landline and wireless numbers was used to ensure that all Manitoba adults would have an equal opportunity to participate. Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that age and gender characteristics properly reflect known attributes of the province's population.



The weighted sample was 52% female and ages of respondents were well distributed. Over 50% had completed post-secondary education and 32% of persons had children at home. Of the respondents, 68% owned their own home, 48% earned $60,000 or more in household income and 60% lived inside Winnipeg.

For the September 2015 survey, a supplementary section on perceptions of age and growing older was added for MBS. Manitobans were presented with questions pertaining to aging issues such as Abuse, Financial Security, Loneliness and Health. These issues are of interest as they could become more pronounced due to Manitoba's future demographic change.

Selected individual charts present a "Balance Score" figure. It is calculated as the rounded difference between a positive response (e.g. Strongly Agree, Agree) and a negative response (e.g. Disagree, Strongly Disagree). The Balance Score provides an indication of how far the emerging situation is from the status quo. For example, the Balance Score for *concerned about my financial security* is +27, derived from 51% positive responses and 24% negative responses.

Selected charts also present an "Agreement Score". It is a weighted average of the responses that assumes an equal distribution of emotional/mental response between choices. The score can range from a low of 1 (Total Disagreement) to a high of 5 (Total Agreement). The scores are calculated as follows, based on a 5 point scale, and rounded:

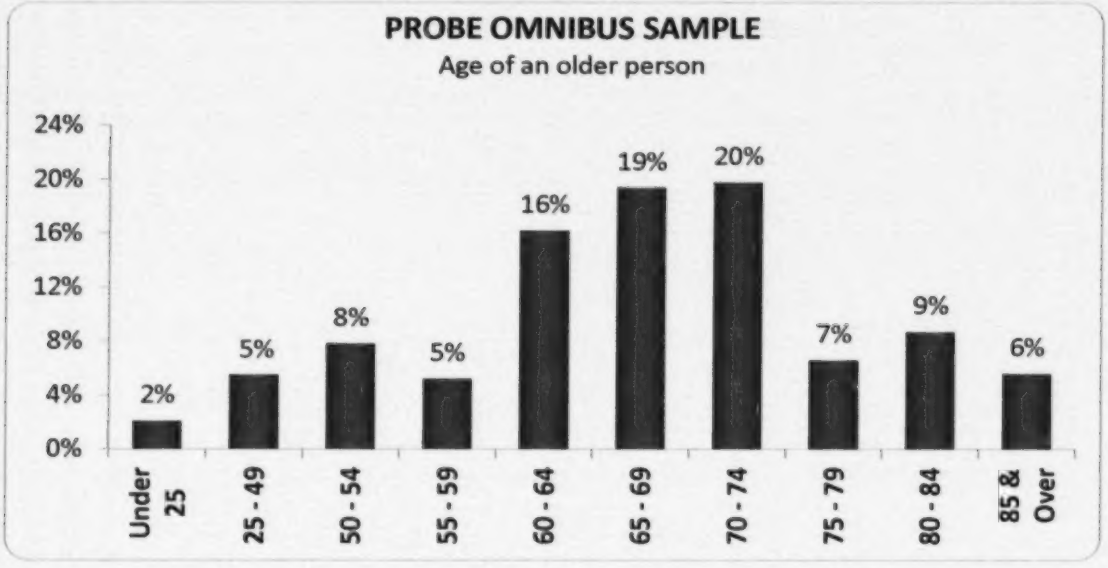
Agreement Score = [(count 'Strongly Agree' x 5) + (count '4' x 4) + (count '3' x 3) + (count '2' x 2) + (count 'Strongly Disagree' x 1)] / Total count

For example, the Agreement Score for *concerned about my financial security in my older years* is 3.5, derived from [(318 x 5) + (192 x 4) + (247 x 3) + (103 x 2) + (134 x 1)] / 994.

Summary Results

Detailed results for select questions are available in the Appendix.

According to the survey results, most Manitobans view the threshold of being an "older person" as starting at about retirement age. More than half of respondents (55%) cited this threshold as being between the ages of 60 and 74 years. The average age given by respondents was 64.4 years.



Notable variations among respondents include:

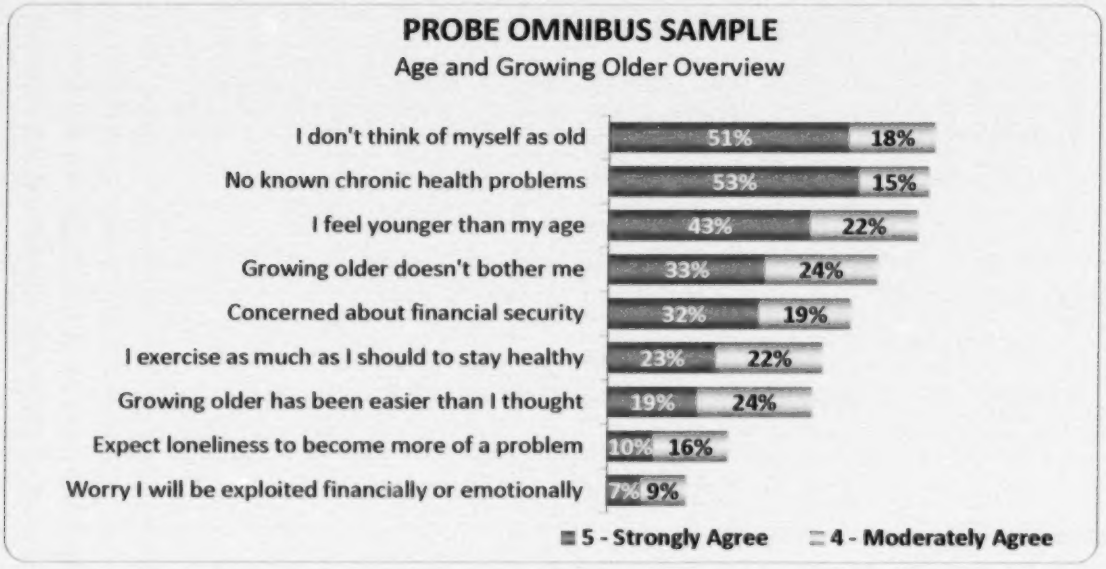
- Younger adults expressed a lower threshold for being an "older person". Among those aged 18 to 34 years, the average threshold age was cited as being 57.5 years, versus 70.2 years among those aged 55 years or older.

- Respondents who completed post-secondary education set a slightly higher average threshold age than did those with a Grade 12 education or less (66.5 versus 61.6 years, respectively).

When asked to express their strength of agreement or disagreement with nine statements about age and growing older, strong majorities agreed that they do not think of themselves as old (69% agree versus 15% disagree) and that they do not have any known chronic health problems (68% agree versus 22% disagree). There was also solid agreement among Manitobans that they feel younger than their age (64% agree versus 16% disagree).

Several statements were greeted with a wider range of views. These included statements about growing older not bothering them (57% agree versus 24% disagree), being concerned about financial security in their older years (51% agree versus 24% disagree), getting as much exercise as they should to stay healthy (45% agree versus 27% disagree) and that getting older has been easier than they thought it would be (43% agree versus 22% disagree).

Relatively few anticipated loneliness being a problem as they get older (26% agree versus 54% disagree) or worried that they would be emotionally or financially exploited (16% agree versus 69% disagree).



Notable variations among respondents include:

- Manitobans living outside of Winnipeg were more likely than their Winnipeg counterparts to report themselves as being free of concerns about chronic health problems (77% versus 61% agree, respectively).

- Younger adults aged 18 to 34 years were among the most likely to see themselves as being free from chronic health concerns (77% agree versus 59% among those aged 55 years and over), and among the least likely to report that they feel younger than their age (58% agree). They also tend to doubt that loneliness will be a problem in their later years (63% disagree, versus 46% among those aged 55 years and over).

- Middle-aged Manitobans aged 35 to 54 years expressed unique concerns about their future financial well-being (59% agreeing that this is a concern).

- Manitobans with a Grade 12 education or less expressed higher levels of insecurity about their financial future (61% agreeing that this is a concern) and about potentially being financially or emotionally exploited as an older person (23% agree). They were also less likely than average to say that they feel younger than their age (58% agree, versus 71% among post-secondary graduates).

- Residents of lower-income households, earning less than $30,000, were less likely than average to agree that they have no chronic health problems (50% agree), and more likely than average to feel concern about loneliness eventually being a problem (43% agree) or about being eventually at risk of exploitation (33% agree).

- Residents of higher-income households, earning $100,000 or more annually, expressed higher levels of security about life in later years. They were among the most likely to be free of chronic health concerns (75% agree), free from worry about future financial security (39% disagreeing that this is a concern), and to be unconcerned about either future loneliness (66% disagreeing that this is a concern) or financial or emotional exploitation (82% disagreeing that this is a concern).

- Freedom from worry about chronic health concerns was more common among residents of the southern half of Winnipeg (71% southwest and 69% southeast, versus 50% in northwest Winnipeg and 52% in the Core Area).

- Core Area residents were more likely than other Winnipeggers to feel a sense of concern about their financial future (63% agreeing that this is a concern) or about being financially or emotionally exploited in the future (27% agree).

Several of the statements discussed above were subject to notable divergences based on current age. As might be expected, respondents under 45 years old were more likely to feel free from chronic health concerns than their older peers; and those under 55 years old were least likely to perceive themselves as old.

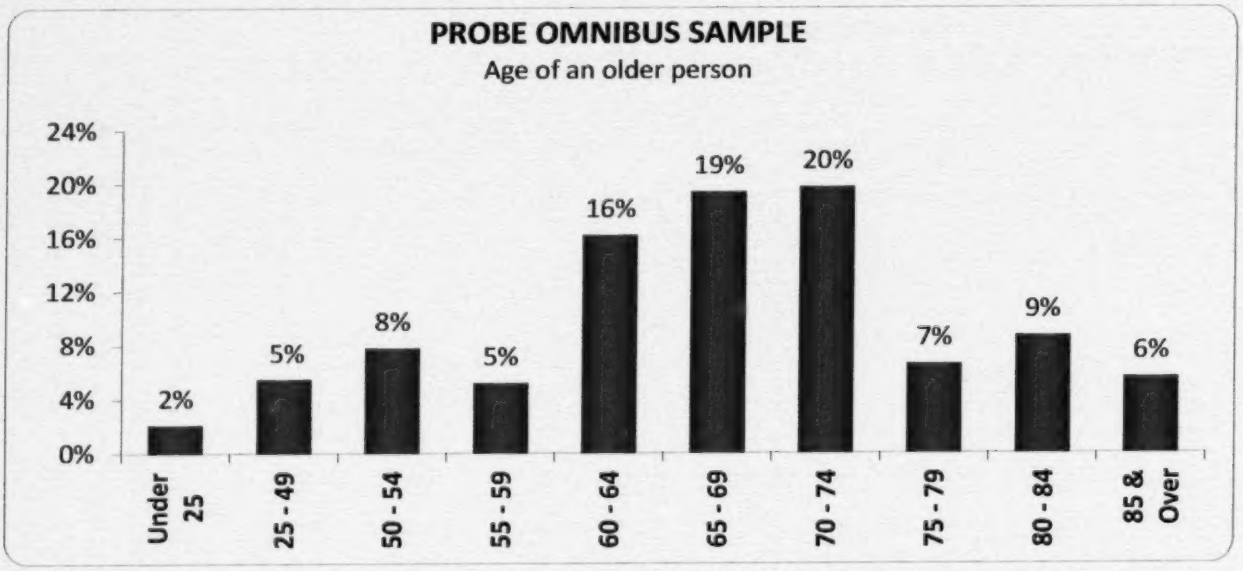
On the matter of future financial security, a moderate spike in anxiety was observed among those 40 to 54 years old which was not seen among those born in earlier or later.

When it came to getting sufficient exercise to remain healthy, it tended to be the youngest and oldest respondents who were most agreeable.

Appendix:
Detailed Results for Select Questions

Question 1

Society is comprised of people of all ages from the very young to the very old. At what age do you consider someone to be an older person?

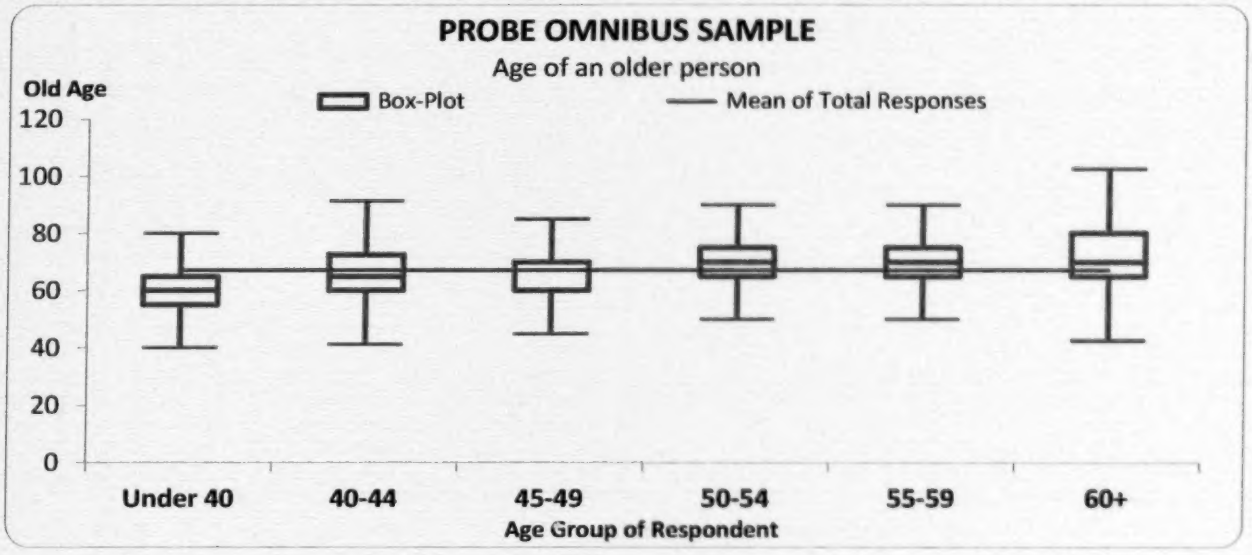


	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
Under 25	21	2%
25 - 49	55	5%
50 - 54	78	8%
55 - 59	52	5%
60 - 64	162	16%
65 - 69	194	19%
70 - 74	198	20%
75 - 79	66	7%
80 - 84	87	9%
85 & Over	56	6%
Total	969	
Average Age Given by Respondents	64.4	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	33	3%

Question 1 by Age Group (unweighted data)

Society is comprised of people of all ages from the very young to the very old.
At what age do you consider someone to be an older person?



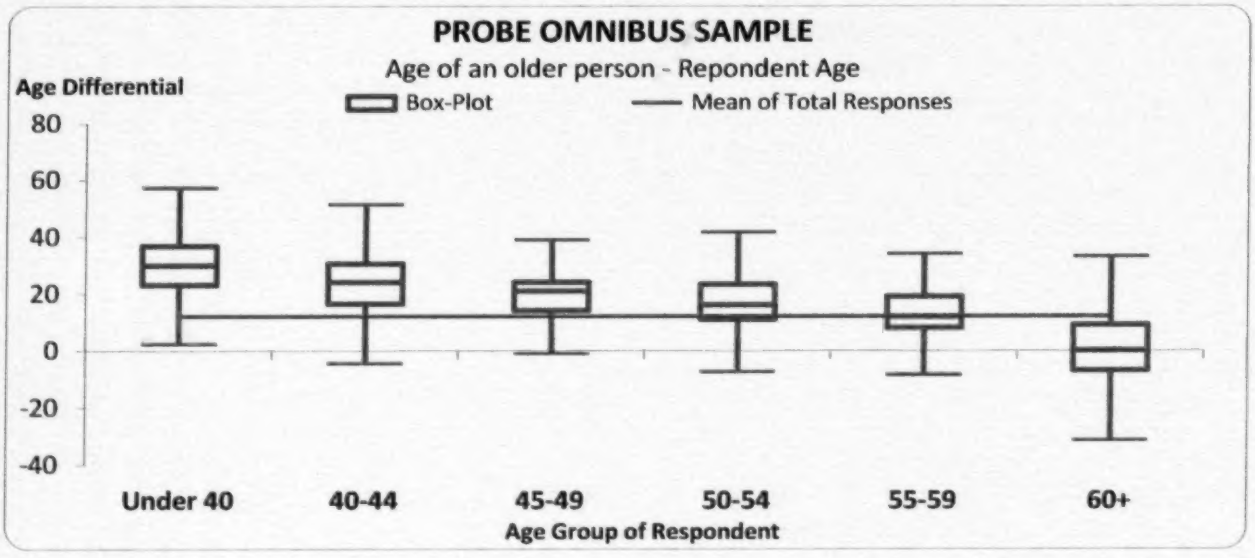
	MANITOBA					
	Number	Q1	Median	Q3	Mean	Mode
Under 40	190	55	60	65	59.2	60
40 - 44	55	60	65	73	65.9	60
45 - 49	73	60	70	70	64.7	70
50 - 54	100	65	70	75	68.8	70
55 - 59	101	65	70	75	68.7	70
60 & Over	400	65	70	80	70.6	70
Total	919	60	70	75	67.1	70

	Number
Question Non-response/Response Error	81

Box-Plot - a standardized way of displaying the distribution of data based on quartiles.
Q1 (first quartile, lower line of box) - 25% of data points fall below this value
Median (second quartile, middle line of box) - 50% of data points fall below this value
Q3 (third quartile, top line of box) - 75% of data points fall below this value
Lower Whisker - higher of the minimum data point or Q1-1.5* the interquartile range (Q3-Q1)
Upper Whisker - lower of the maximum data point or Q3+1.5* the interquartile range (Q3-Q1)
Mean - average value of responses (sum of responses divided by number of responses)
Mode - the value that appears most often among responses

Question 1 Age Differential by Age Group (unweighted data)

Society is comprised of people of all ages from the very young to the very old.
At what age do you consider someone to be an older person?



	MANITOBA					
	Number	Q1	Median	Q3	Mean	Mode
Under 40	190	23	30	37	29.2	32
40 - 44	55	17	24	31	23.9	16
45 - 49	73	14	21	24	17.8	24
50 - 54	100	11	16	23	16.5	16
55 - 59	101	8	12	19	11.6	12
60 & Over	400	-7	0	9	0.1	0
Total	919	0	12	24	12.0	0

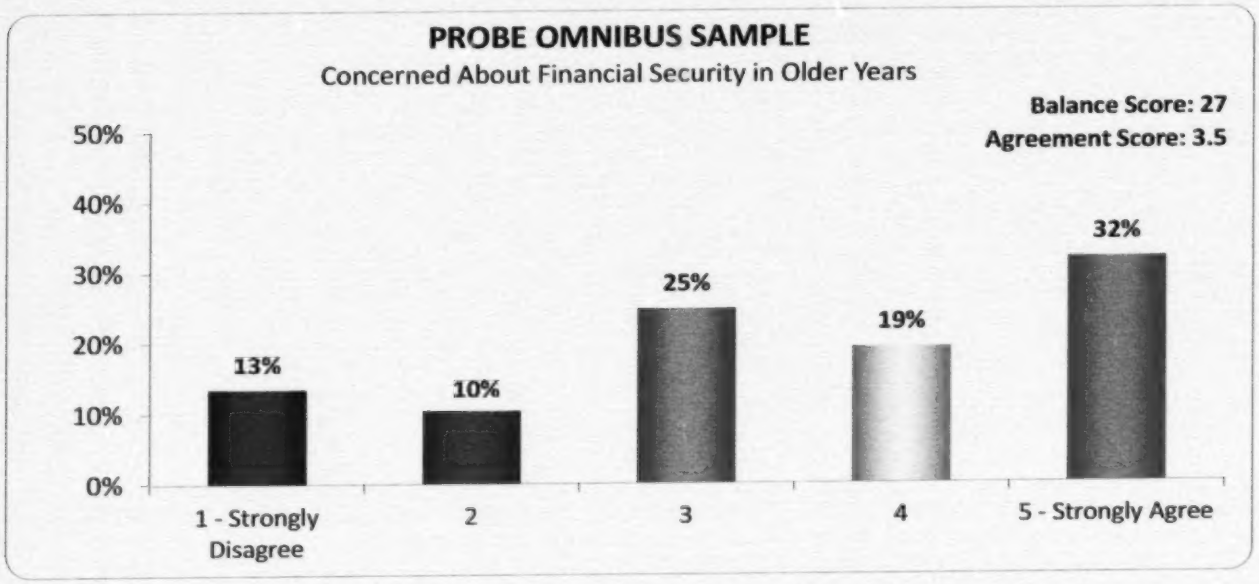
	Number
Question Non-response/Response Error	81

Box-Plot - a standardized way of displaying the distribution of data based on quartiles.
Q1 (first quartile, lower line of box) - 25% of data points fall below this value
Median (second quartile, middle line of box) - 50% of data points fall below this value
Q3 (third quartile, top line of box) - 75% of data points fall below this value
Lower Whisker - higher of the minimum data point or Q1-1.5* the interquartile range (Q3-Q1)
Upper Whisker - lower of the maximum data point or Q3+1.5* the interquartile range (Q3-Q1)
Mean - average value of responses (sum of responses divided by number of responses)
Mode - the value that appears most often among responses

Question 2A

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I am concerned about my financial security in my older years



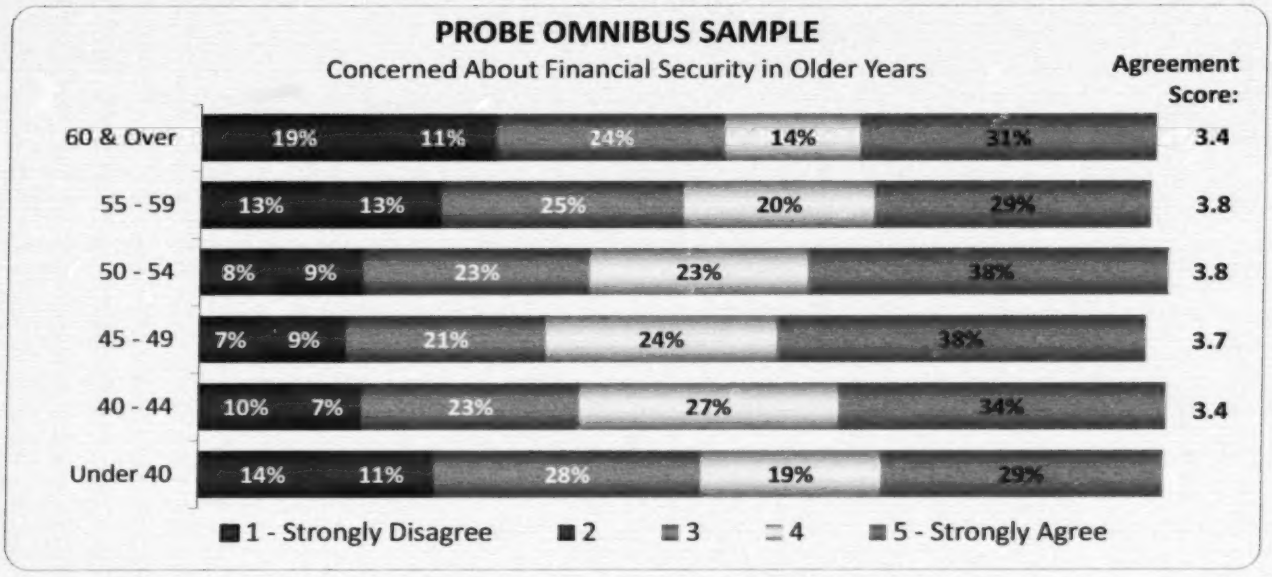
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	134	13%
2	103	10%
3	247	25%
4	192	19%
5 - Strongly Agree	318	32%
Total	994	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	6	1%

Question 2A by Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I am concerned about my financial security in my older years

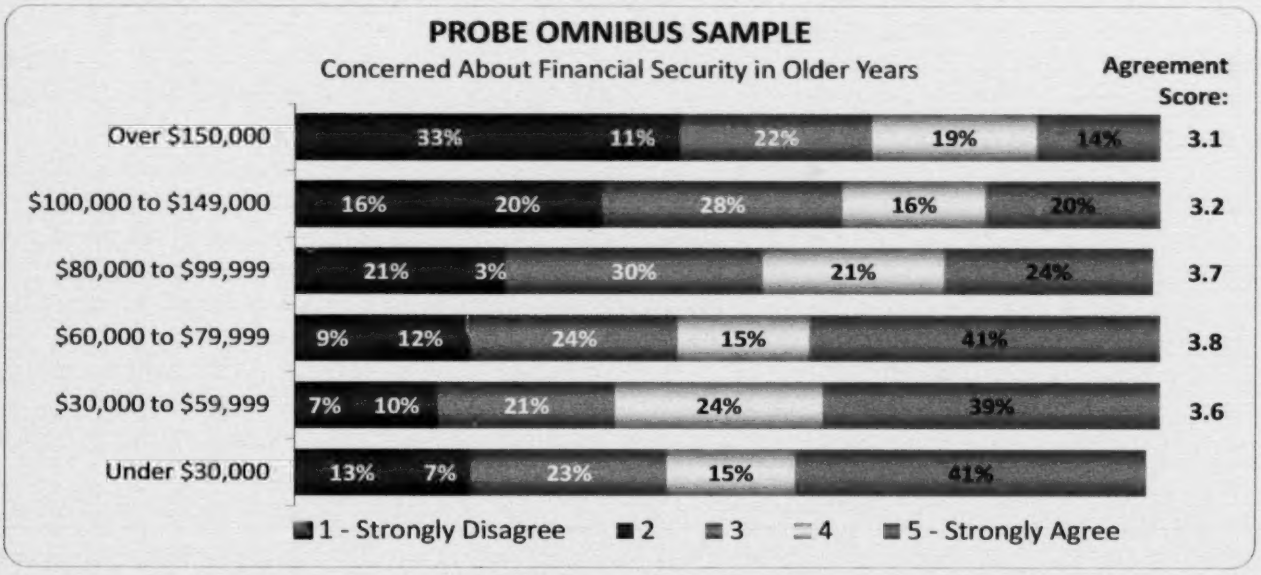


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	14%	11%	28%	19%	29%
40 - 44	10%	7%	23%	27%	34%
45 - 49	7%	9%	21%	24%	38%
50 - 54	8%	9%	23%	23%	38%
55 - 59	13%	13%	25%	20%	29%
60 & Over	19%	11%	24%	14%	31%

Question 2A by Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I am concerned about my financial security in my older years

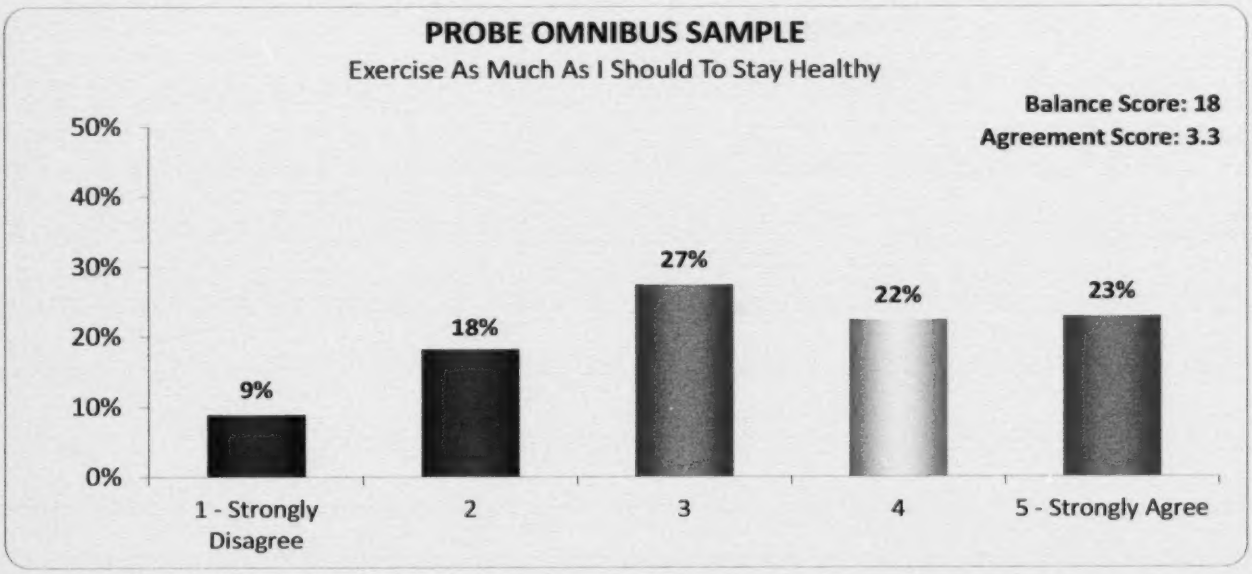


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	13%	7%	23%	15%	41%
$30,000 to $59,999	7%	10%	21%	24%	39%
$60,000 to $79,999	9%	12%	24%	15%	41%
$80,000 to $99,999	21%	3%	30%	21%	24%
$100,000 to $149,000	16%	20%	28%	16%	20%
Over $150,000	33%	11%	22%	19%	14%

Question 2B

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I exercise as much as I should to stay healthy



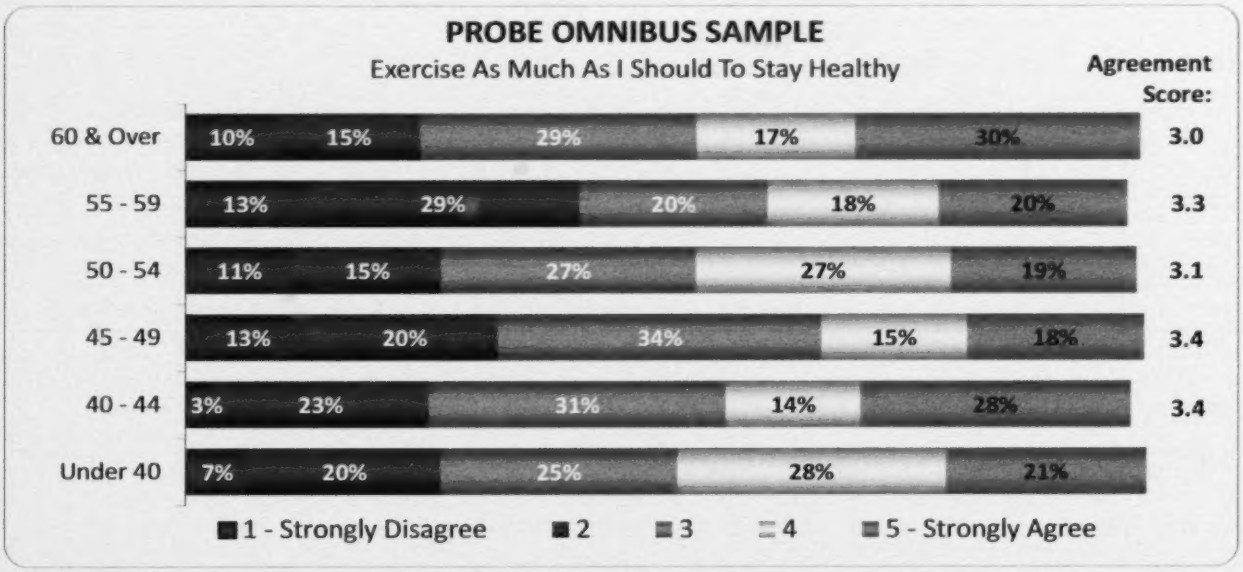
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	88	9%
2	181	18%
3	273	27%
4	223	22%
5 - Strongly Agree	228	23%
Total	993	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	7	1%

Question 2B By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I exercise as much as I should to stay healthy

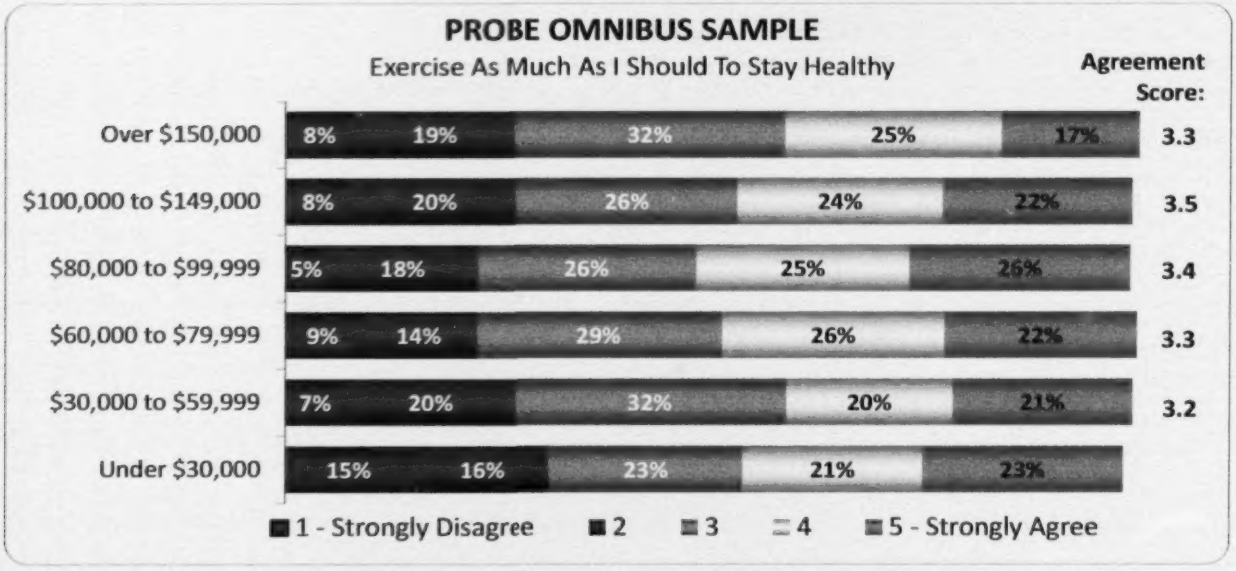


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	7%	20%	25%	28%	21%
40 - 44	3%	23%	31%	14%	28%
45 - 49	13%	20%	34%	15%	18%
50 - 54	11%	15%	27%	27%	19%
55 - 59	13%	29%	20%	18%	20%
60 & Over	10%	15%	29%	17%	30%

Question 2B By Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I exercise as much as I should to stay healthy

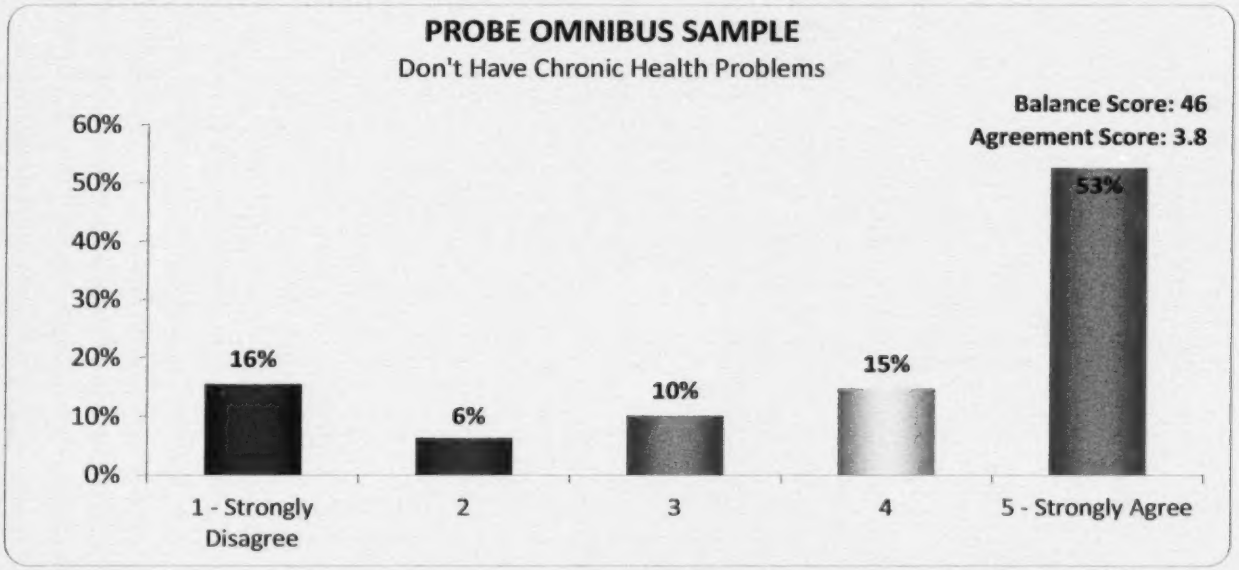


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	15%	16%	23%	21%	23%
$30,000 to $59,999	7%	20%	32%	20%	21%
$60,000 to $79,999	9%	14%	29%	26%	22%
$80,000 to $99,999	5%	18%	26%	25%	26%
$100,000 to $149,000	8%	20%	26%	24%	22%
Over $150,000	8%	19%	32%	25%	17%

Question 2C

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

As far as I know, I don't have any chronic health problems



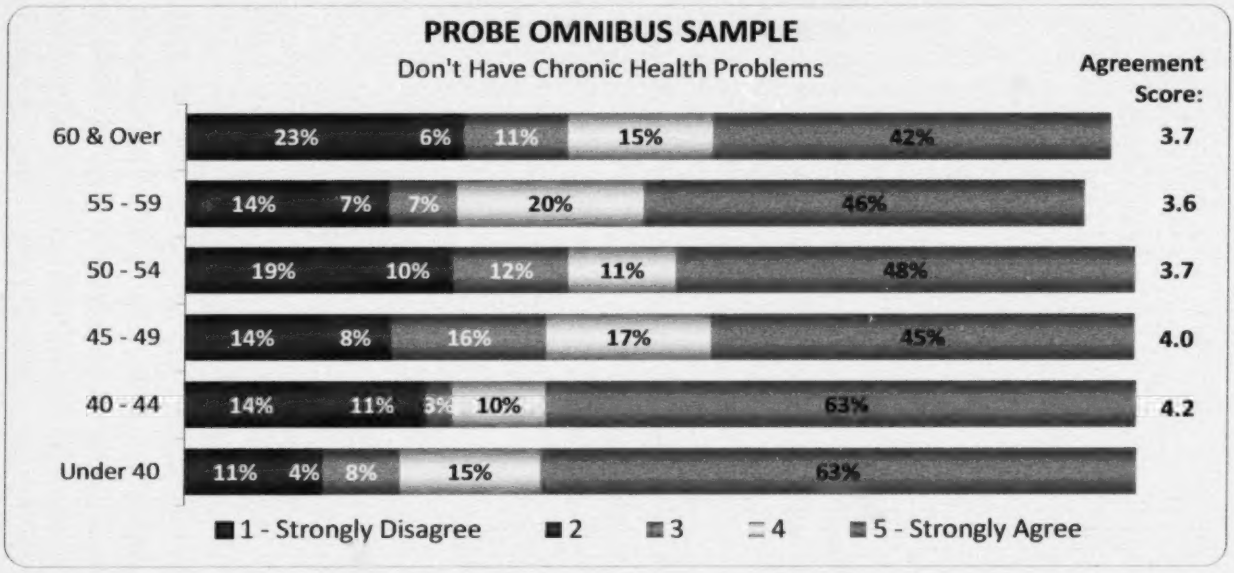
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	155	16%
2	63	6%
3	101	10%
4	147	15%
5 - Strongly Agree	526	53%
Total	992	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	8	1%

Question 2C By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

As far as I know, I don't have any chronic health problems

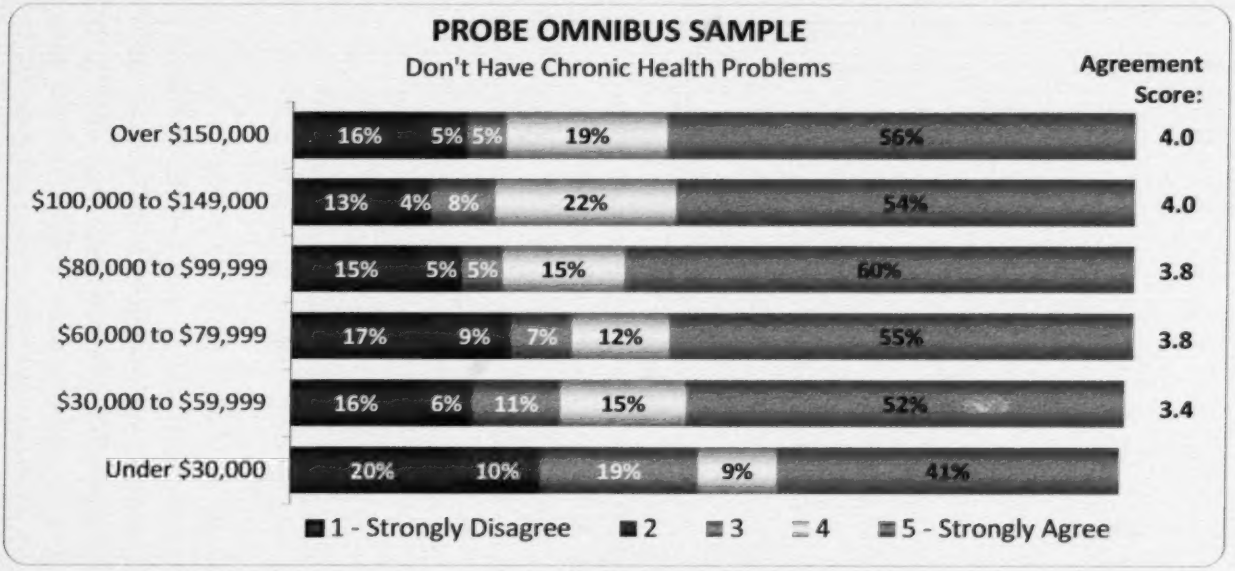


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	11%	4%	8%	15%	63%
40 - 44	14%	11%	3%	10%	63%
45 - 49	14%	8%	16%	17%	45%
50 - 54	19%	10%	12%	11%	48%
55 - 59	14%	7%	7%	20%	46%
60 & Over	23%	6%	11%	15%	42%

Question 2C By Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

As far as I know, I don't have any chronic health problems

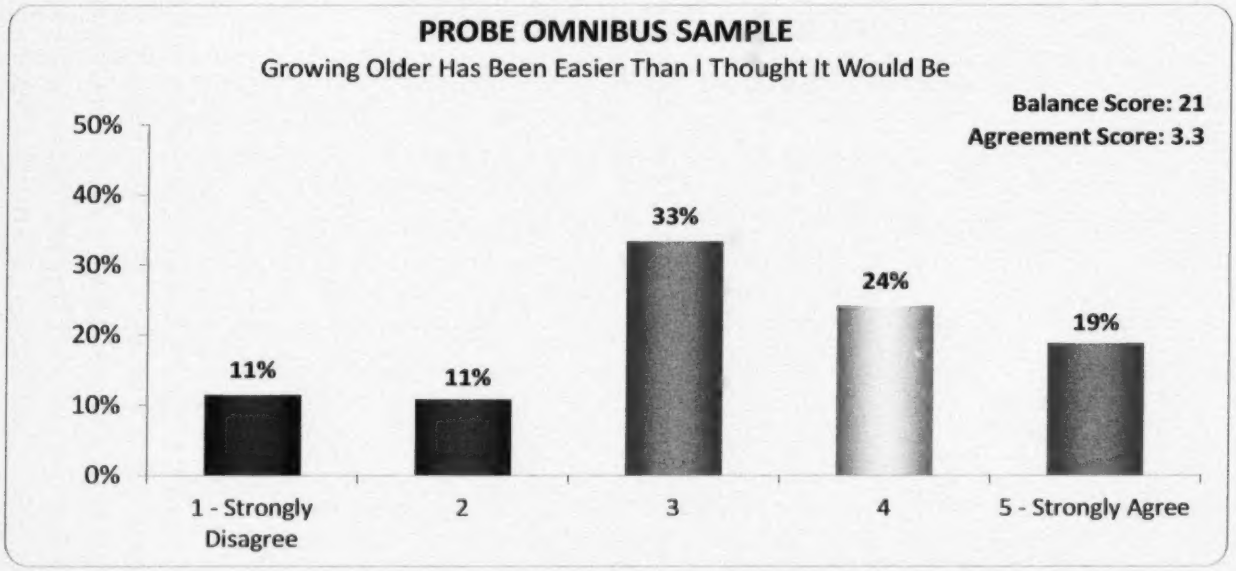


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	20%	10%	19%	9%	41%
$30,000 to $59,999	16%	6%	11%	15%	52%
$60,000 to $79,999	17%	9%	7%	12%	55%
$80,000 to $99,999	15%	5%	5%	15%	60%
$100,000 to $149,000	13%	4%	8%	22%	54%
Over $150,000	16%	5%	5%	19%	56%

Question 2D

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

Growing older has been easier than I thought it would be



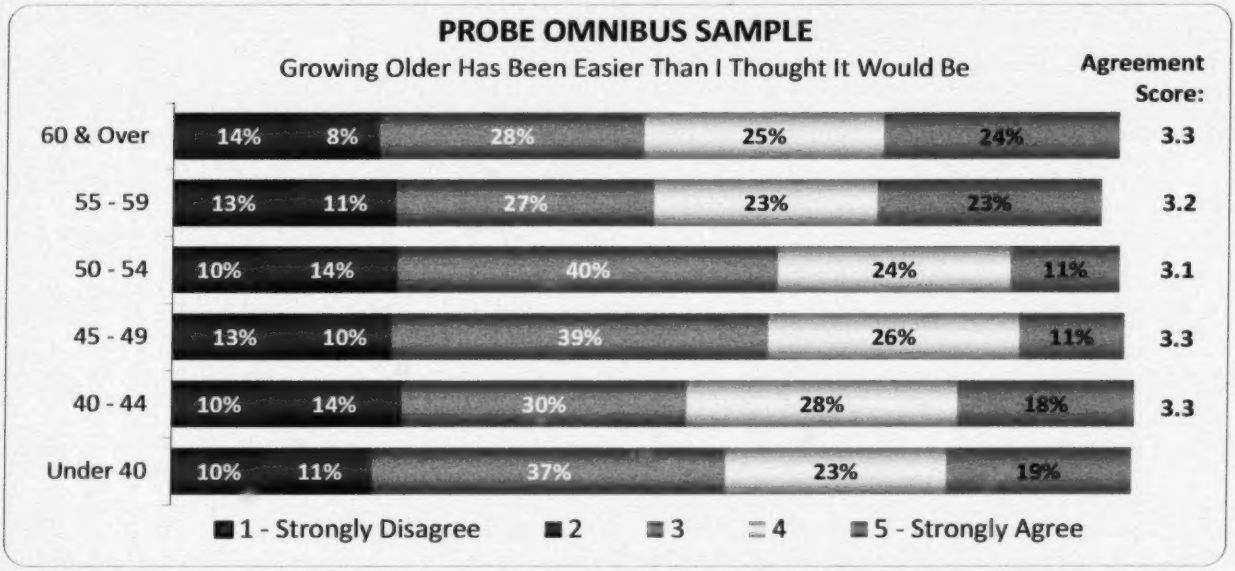
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	114	11%
2	108	11%
3	333	33%
4	241	24%
5 - Strongly Agree	188	19%
Total	984	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	8	1%

Question 2D By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

Growing older has been easier than I thought it would be

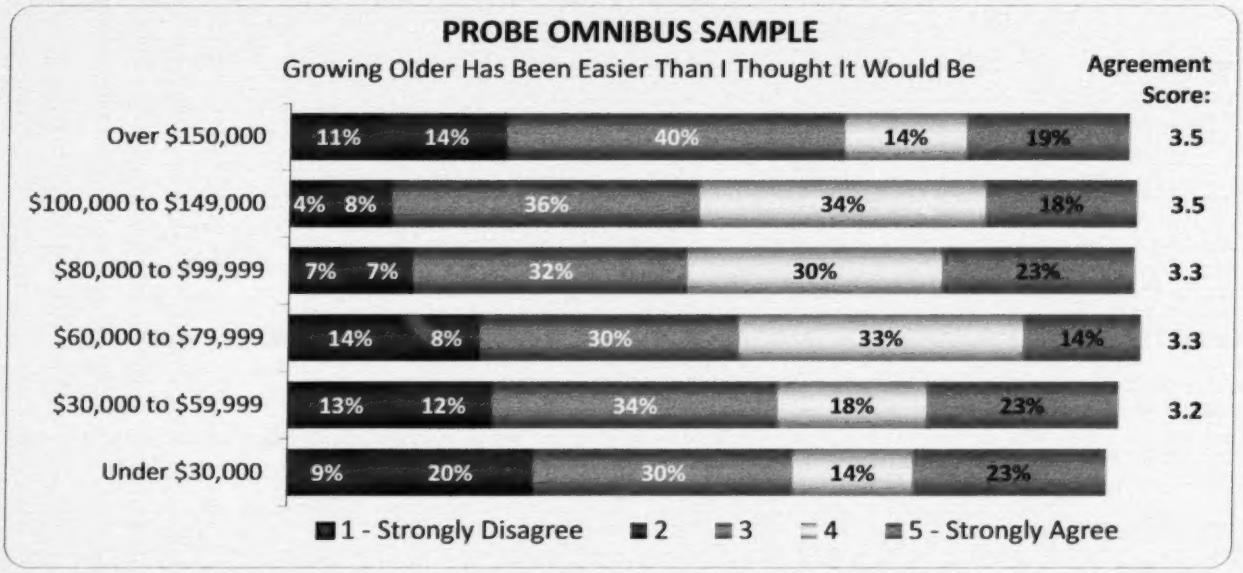


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	10%	11%	37%	23%	19%
40 - 44	10%	14%	30%	28%	18%
45 - 49	13%	10%	39%	26%	11%
50 - 54	10%	14%	40%	24%	11%
55 - 59	13%	11%	27%	23%	23%
60 & Over	14%	8%	28%	25%	24%

Question 2D By Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

Growing older has been easier than I thought it would be

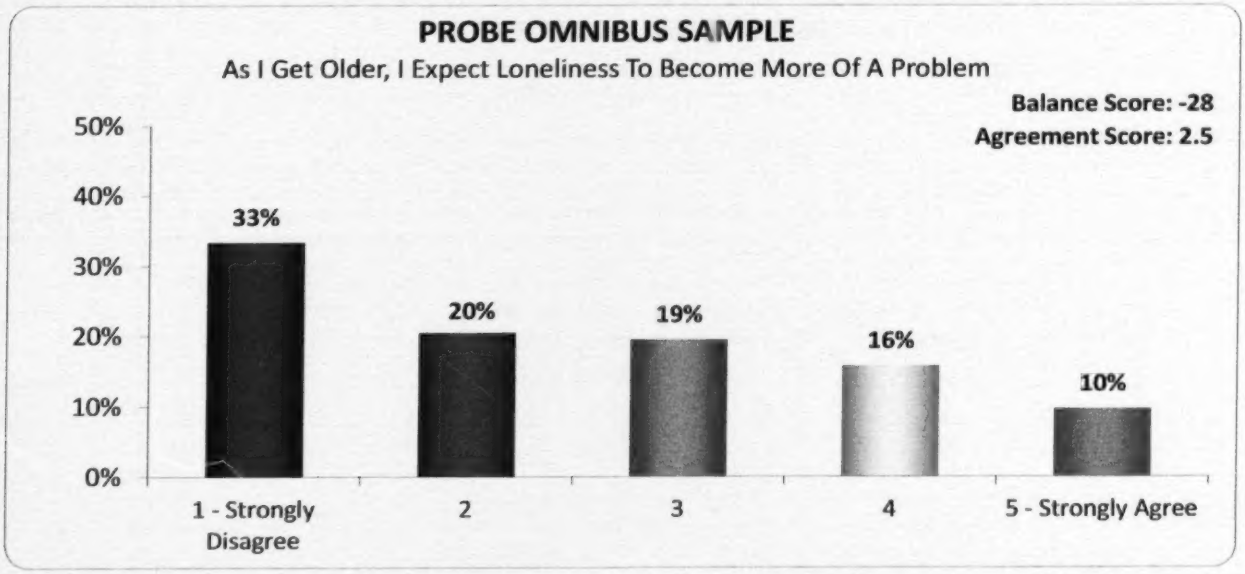


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	9%	20%	30%	14%	23%
$30,000 to $59,999	13%	12%	34%	18%	23%
$60,000 to $79,999	14%	8%	30%	33%	14%
$80,000 to $99,999	7%	7%	32%	30%	23%
$100,000 to $149,000	4%	8%	36%	34%	18%
Over $150,000	11%	14%	40%	14%	19%

Question 2E

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

As I get older, I expect loneliness to become more of a problem



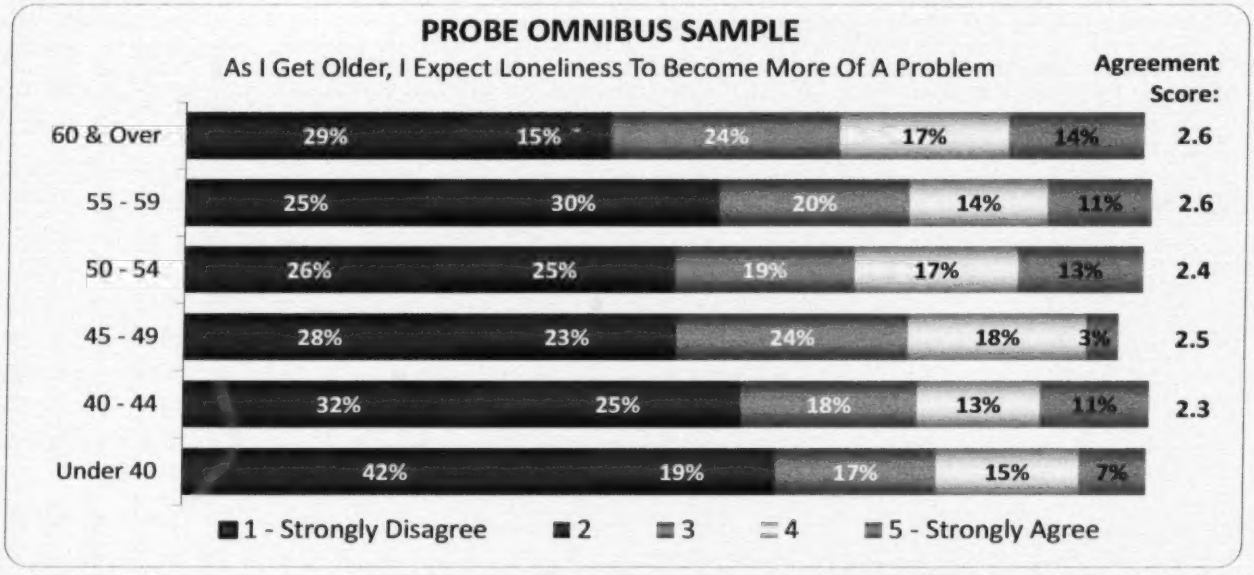
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	333	33%
2	204	20%
3	194	19%
4	157	16%
5 - Strongly Agree	96	10%
Total	984	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	16	2%

Question 2E By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

As I get older, I expect loneliness to become more of a problem

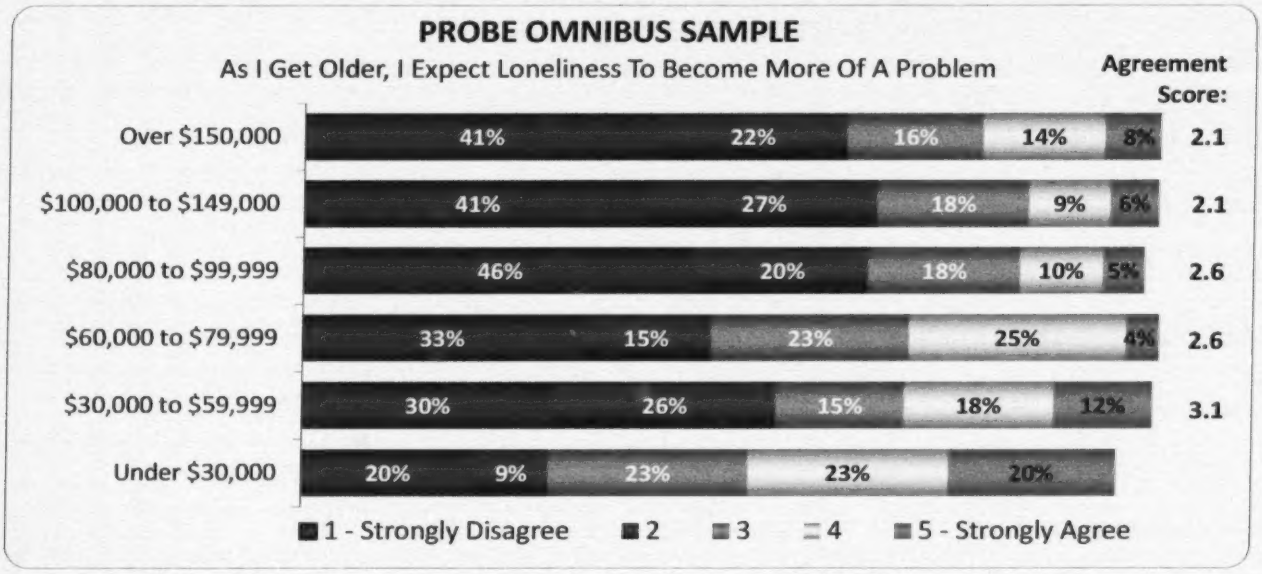


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	42%	19%	17%	15%	7%
40 - 44	32%	25%	18%	13%	11%
45 - 49	28%	23%	24%	18%	3%
50 - 54	26%	25%	19%	17%	13%
55 - 59	25%	30%	20%	14%	11%
60 & Over	29%	15%	24%	17%	14%

Question 2E By Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

As I get older, I expect loneliness to become more of a problem

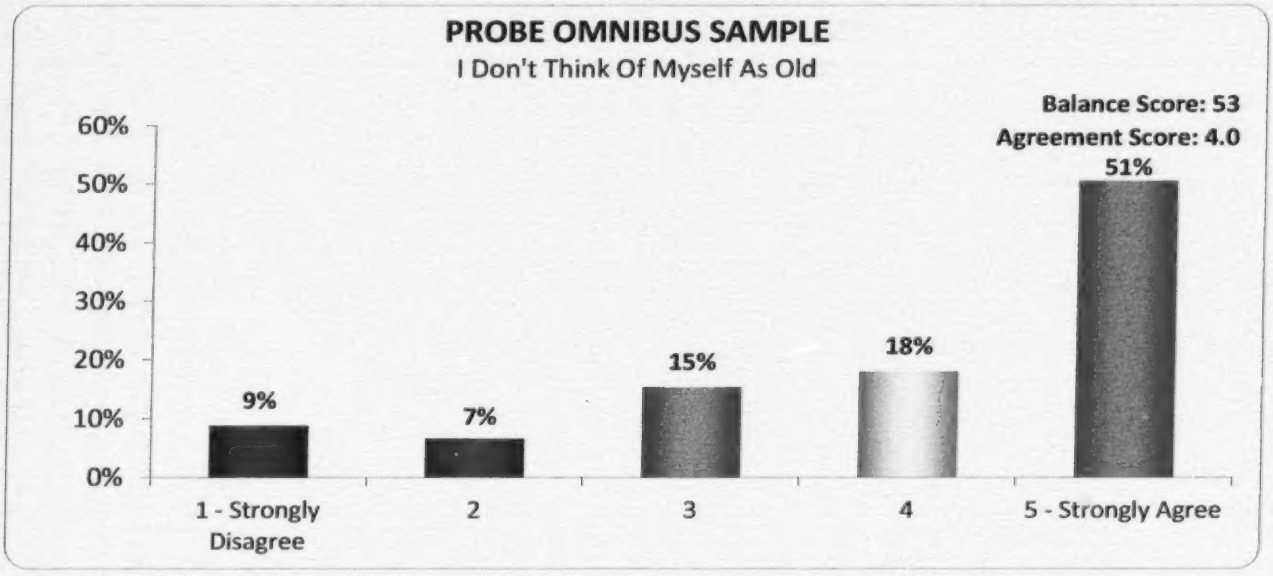


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	20%	9%	23%	23%	20%
$30,000 to $59,999	30%	26%	15%	18%	12%
$60,000 to $79,999	33%	15%	23%	25%	4%
$80,000 to $99,999	46%	20%	18%	10%	5%
$100,000 to $149,000	41%	27%	18%	9%	6%
Over $150,000	41%	22%	16%	14%	8%

Question 2F

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I don't think of myself as old



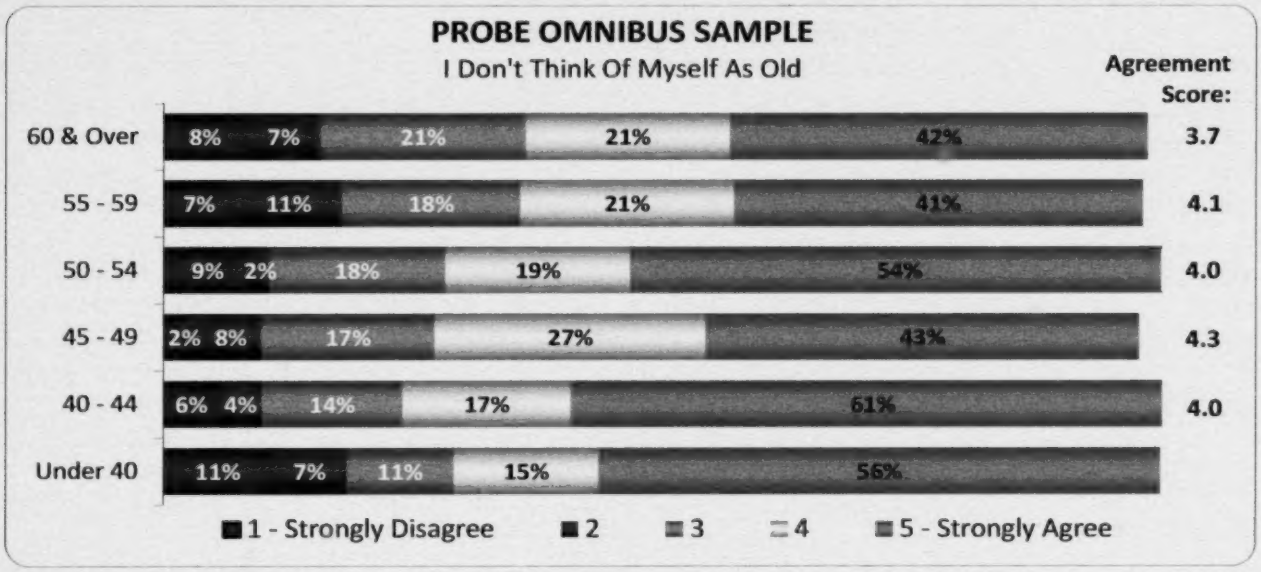
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	88	9%
2	66	7%
3	153	15%
4	180	18%
5 - Strongly Agree	505	51%
Total	992	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	8	1%

Question 2F By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I don't think of myself as old

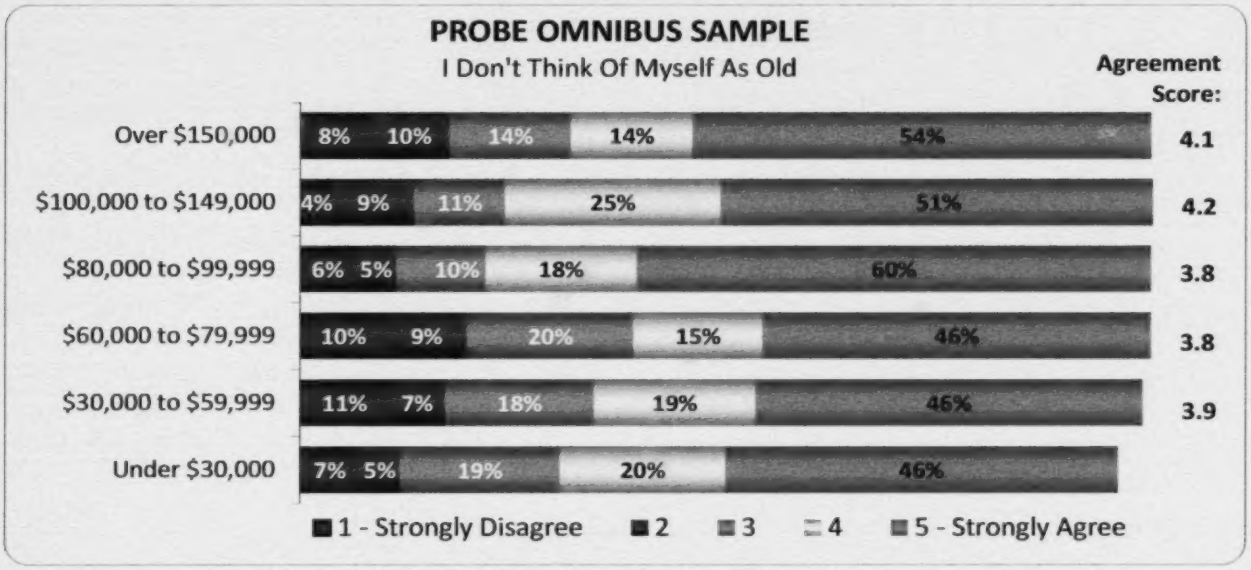


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	11%	7%	11%	15%	56%
40 - 44	6%	4%	14%	17%	61%
45 - 49	2%	8%	17%	27%	43%
50 - 54	9%	2%	18%	19%	54%
55 - 59	7%	11%	18%	21%	41%
60 & Over	8%	7%	21%	21%	42%

Question 2F By Family income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I don't think of myself as old

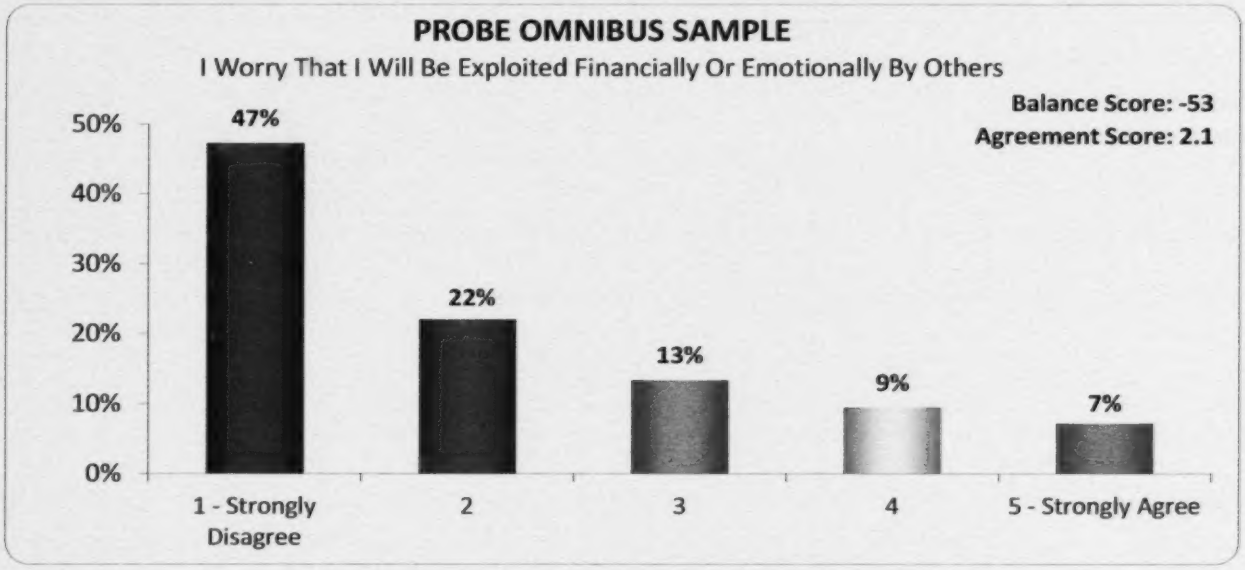


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	7%	5%	19%	20%	46%
$30,000 to $59,999	11%	7%	18%	19%	46%
$60,000 to $79,999	10%	9%	20%	15%	46%
$80,000 to $99,999	6%	5%	10%	18%	60%
$100,000 to $149,000	4%	9%	11%	25%	51%
Over $150,000	8%	10%	14%	14%	54%

Question 2G

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I worry that when I am older I will be exploited financially or emotionally by others



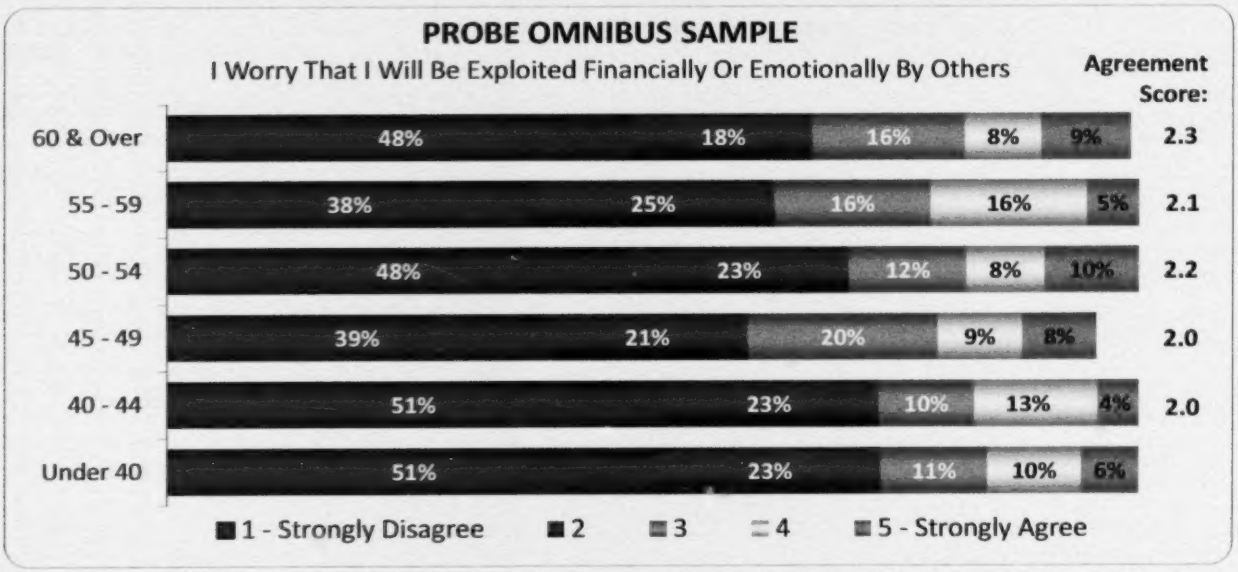
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	472	47%
2	220	22%
3	133	13%
4	94	9%
5 - Strongly Agree	71	7%
Total	990	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	9	1%

Question 2G By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I worry that when I am older I will be exploited financially or emotionally by others

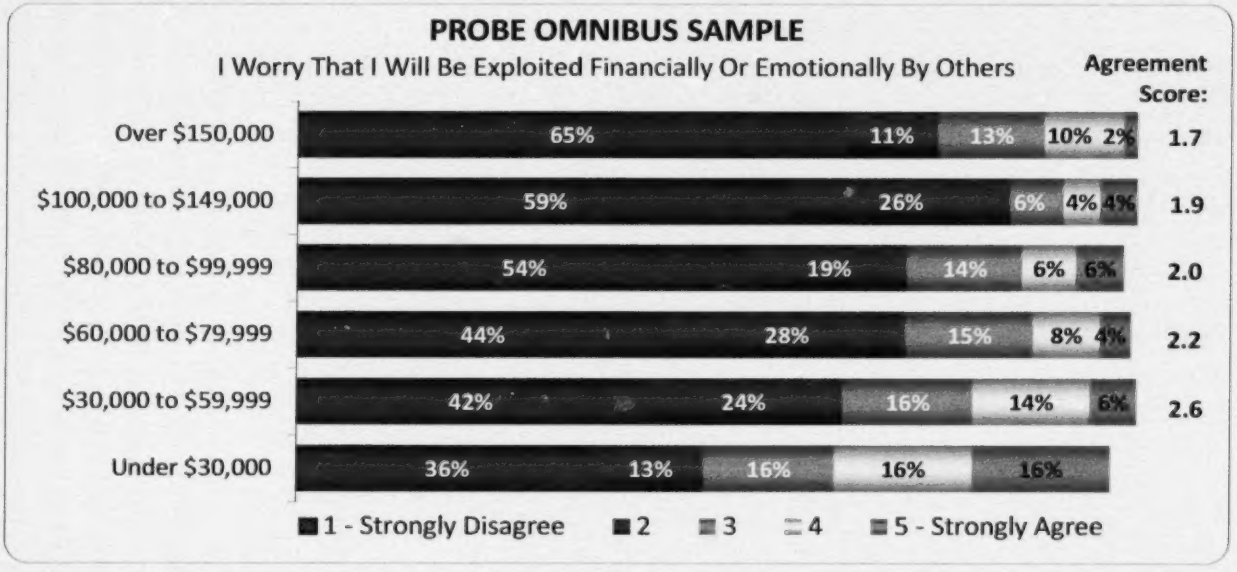


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	51%	23%	11%	10%	6%
40 - 44	51%	23%	10%	13%	4%
45 - 49	39%	21%	20%	9%	8%
50 - 54	48%	23%	12%	8%	10%
55 - 59	38%	25%	16%	16%	5%
60 & Over	48%	18%	16%	8%	9%

Question 2G By Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I worry that when I am older I will be exploited financially or emotionally by others

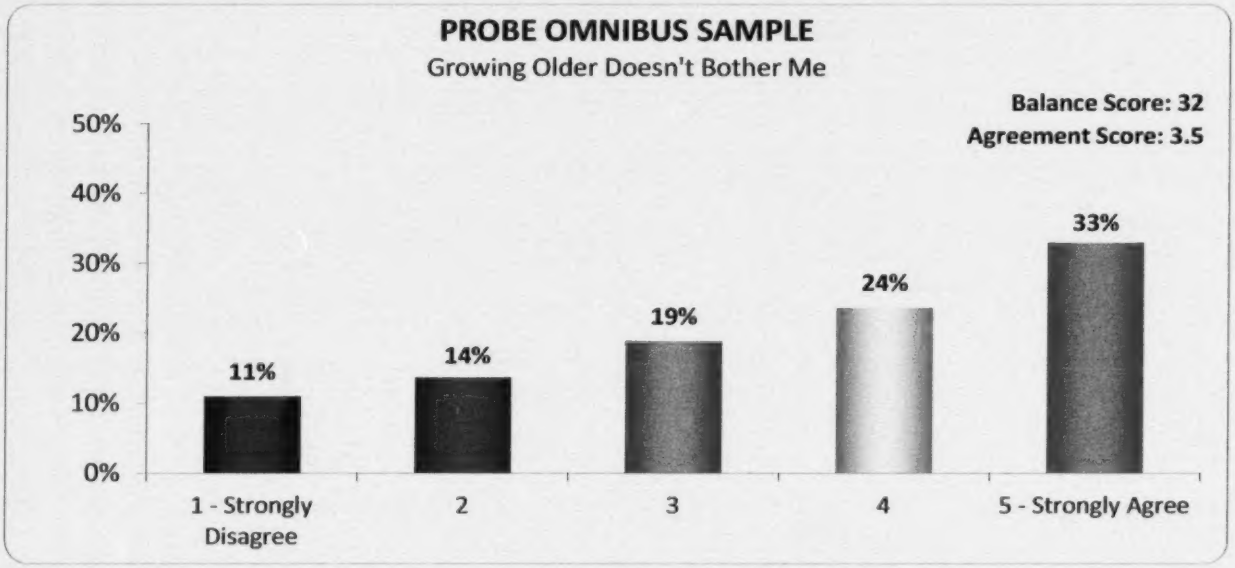


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	36%	13%	16%	16%	16%
$30,000 to $59,999	42%	24%	16%	14%	6%
$60,000 to $79,999	44%	28%	15%	8%	4%
$80,000 to $99,999	54%	19%	14%	6%	6%
$100,000 to $149,000	59%	26%	6%	4%	4%
Over $150,000	65%	11%	13%	10%	2%

Question 2H

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

Growing older doesn't bother me



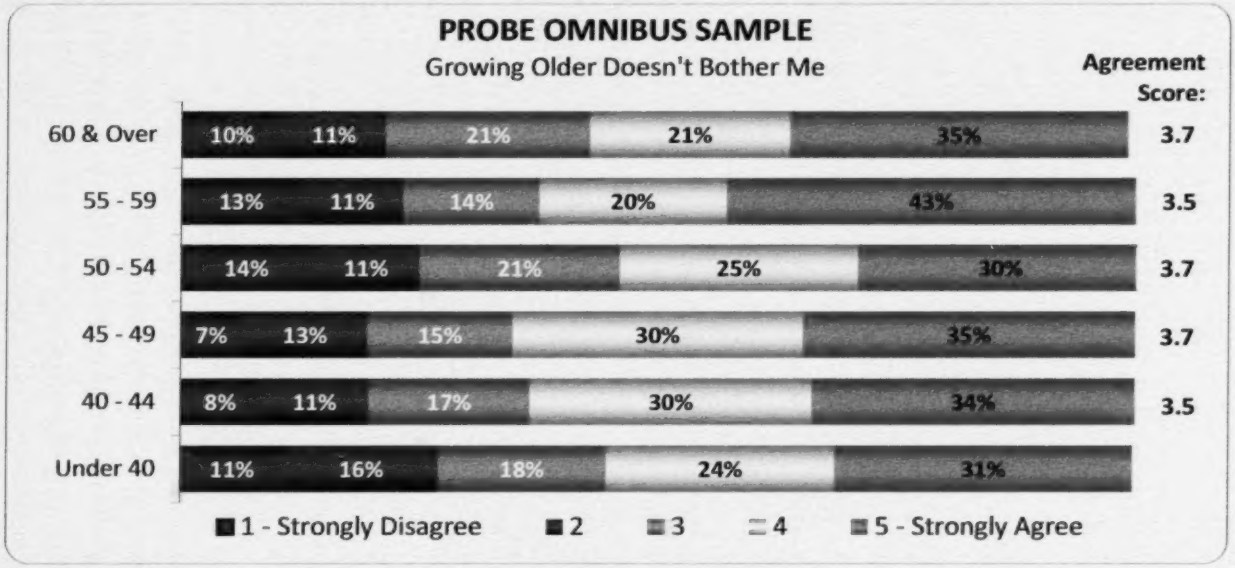
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	109	11%
2	136	14%
3	188	19%
4	236	24%
5 - Strongly Agree	329	33%
Total	998	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	2	0%

Question 2H By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

Growing older doesn't bother me

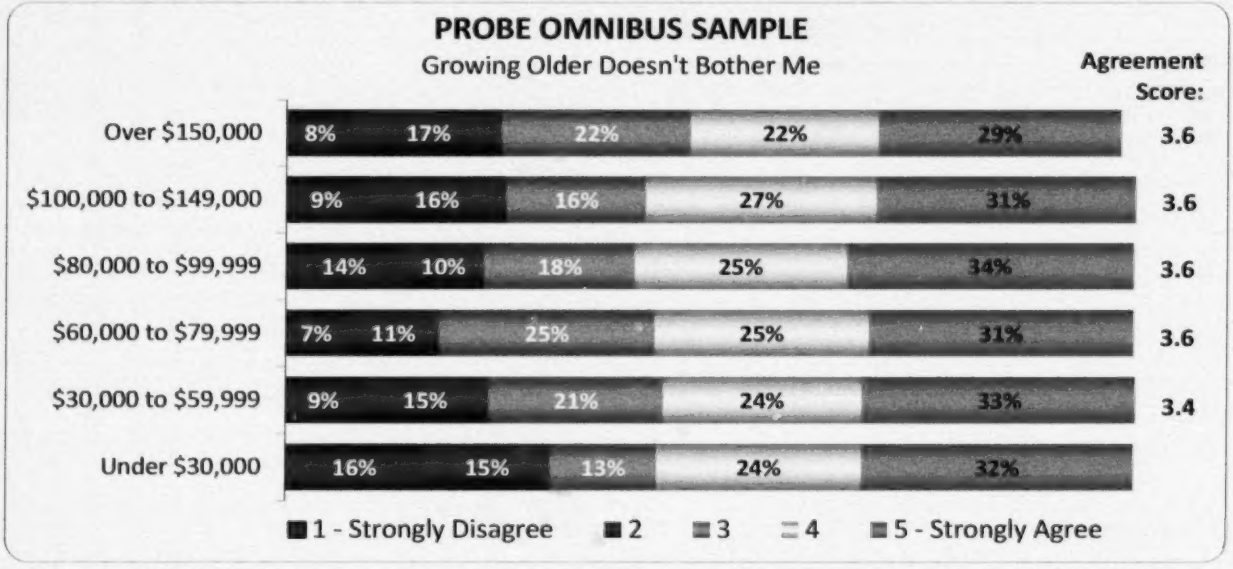


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	11%	16%	18%	24%	31%
40 - 44	8%	11%	17%	30%	34%
45 - 49	7%	13%	15%	30%	35%
50 - 54	14%	11%	21%	25%	30%
55 - 59	13%	11%	14%	20%	43%
60 & Over	10%	11%	21%	21%	35%

Question 2H By Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

Growing older doesn't bother me

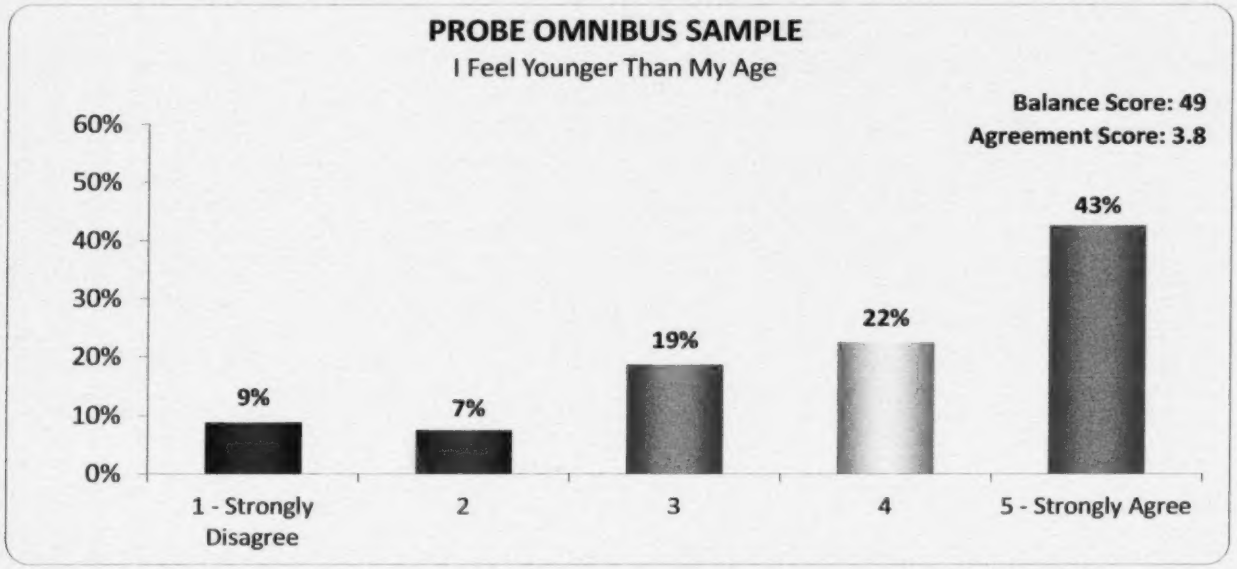


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	16%	15%	13%	24%	32%
$30,000 to $59,999	9%	15%	21%	24%	33%
$60,000 to $79,999	7%	11%	25%	25%	31%
$80,000 to $99,999	14%	10%	18%	25%	34%
$100,000 to $149,000	9%	16%	16%	27%	31%
Over $150,000	8%	17%	22%	22%	29%

Question 2I

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I feel younger than my age



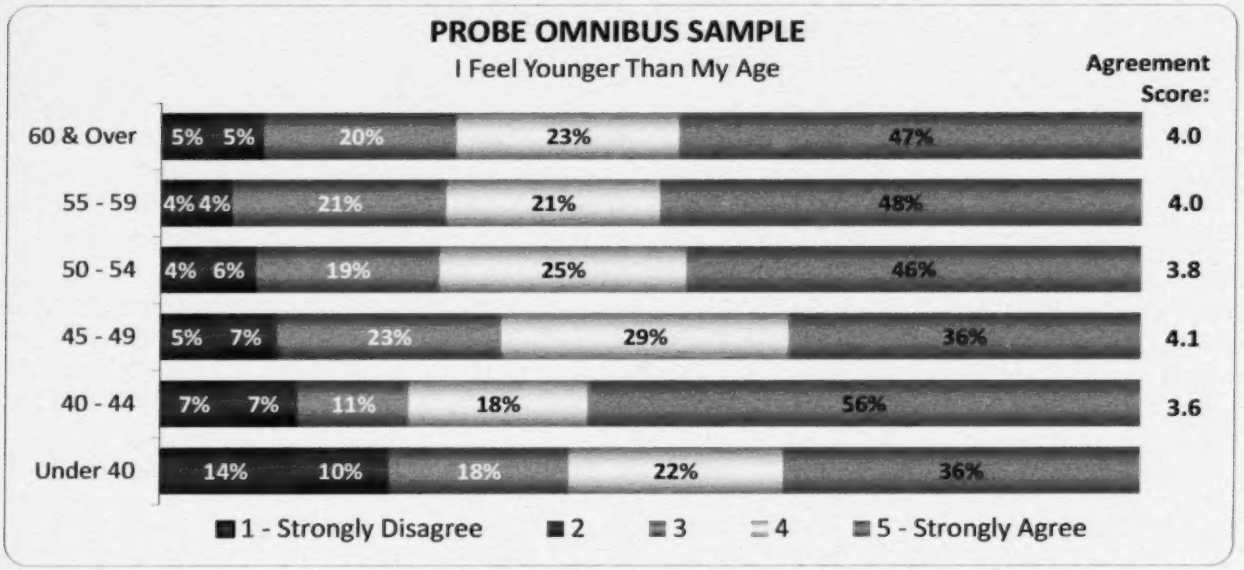
	MANITOBA	
	Number	Percentage
1 - Strongly Disagree	88	9%
2	74	7%
3	186	19%
4	224	22%
5 - Strongly Agree	425	43%
Total	997	

	Number	Percentage
Don't know/Prefer not to specify	3	0%

Question 21 By Age Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I feel younger than my age

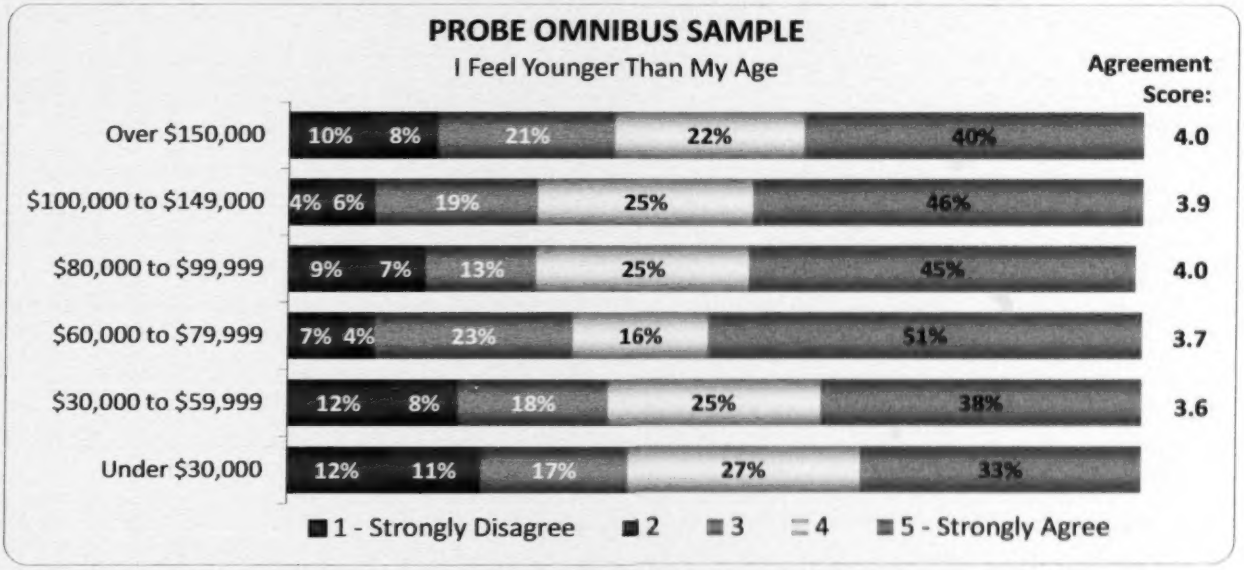


	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under 40	14%	10%	18%	22%	36%
40 - 44	7%	7%	11%	18%	56%
45 - 49	5%	7%	23%	29%	36%
50 - 54	4%	6%	19%	25%	46%
55 - 59	4%	4%	21%	21%	48%
60 & Over	5%	5%	20%	23%	47%

Question 2I By Family Income Group

The following are statements abour age and growing older. What is your general feeling about these statements, no matter what your age is today?

I feel younger than my age



	MANITOBA				
	1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Agree
Under $30,000	12%	11%	17%	27%	33%
$30,000 to $59,999	12%	8%	18%	25%	38%
$60,000 to $79,999	7%	4%	23%	16%	51%
$80,000 to $99,999	9%	7%	13%	25%	45%
$100,000 to $149,000	4%	6%	19%	25%	46%
Over $150,000	10%	8%	21%	22%	40%